

Beshalach 5781  
January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

SEASON 5

EPISODE 15

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



## The New Recruit

by Rabbi Dani Locker

The CEO held on to his toupee as the helicopter came and settled on the pad next to him. It wouldn't do for their young recruit to see his (hopefully) future boss with anything less than perfect dignity. The rotors slowed, and the team hopped out of the helicopter. **PIKLCORP**'s top talent scouts had come back with the most brilliant young scientist the country had to offer: Ken (short for Kenobi, of course) Mithro-falkstein. Young Kenobi had won every major science prize, including the prestigious **ISTY** (I'm Smarter Than You) Award, the **ISSECITSTAVAW** (I'm Still Smart Even Though I Can't Spell Very Well) Prize and the **BOB** (Really, I Have Absolutely No Idea How To Spell)

Prize. Ken Mithro-falkstein was being offered jobs by all the top tech companies, in hopes that he would invent the most incredible new technology and fix the world! Now Ken had arrived on the company's private helicopter for a tour of the facility. The CEO himself had come to greet the promising young inventor, and was ready to give him an incredible tour.

After a gourmet lunch from a five star chef, catered in the executive dining room, the CEO began to show Ken the lab. Ken, however, was busy. He had just gotten his biggest challenge; a 17 sided, 401 cube, octagonal Rubik's cube. It was a mental ninja course, and he was completely absorbed in it. He



Candle lighting

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| Henderson   | 4:46 |
| Las Vegas   | 4:46 |
| Reno/ Tahoe | 4:58 |
| San Diego   | 5:00 |
| Irvine      | 5:01 |
| Los Angeles | 5:02 |
| Oakland     | 5:11 |
| Park City   | 5:22 |
| Scottsdale  | 5:38 |

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barely tasted the food, and as the CEO took him to see their incredibly powerful computer servers, high level bioengineering facilities, and anti gravity vacuum chamber, Kenobi was so busy trying to figure out his cube that he kept bumping into (and apologizing to) walls. He heard and saw nothing of the tour. Nothing.

"We will spare no expense to make sure you have the best team and equipment," blustered the CEO. "We have a multi billion dollar budget, and if you come work for us, your experiments will be our top priority."

"Here, look, there's a swimming pool in your office."

"Do you like elephants? We can have one trained to sing for you."

"We own a complete square block of Manhattan real estate, and there's even an underground bunker for advanced explosive testing."

"We're interested in starting a space program, and you can perform experiments on Mars."

"So, it was nice to meet you. Have a safe flight home. I hope you'll come work for us."

Kenobi looked up suddenly. "I figured it out! A simple algorithm now that I think about it. What were you saying, sir?"

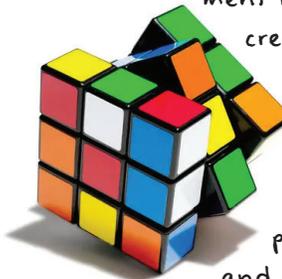
The CEO looked frustrated. "I was asking you, Mr. MithroFalkstein if you wanted to come work for us."

Ken gave the CEO a friendly smile. "I'll certainly consider it, but tell me... could you please give me

a tour? Is the company willing to spend money on my experiments? What will my office be like? I've always wanted to use an underground bunker, do you have one of those?" Ken had been so distracted that he hadn't absorbed any of the info that the CEO had provided.

"You listen to me Obi-Wan. I showed you everything one time. That's all you get. I will not be giving daily tours or answering silly questions that I've already covered. If you wanted the info, you should have paid attention the first time!"

In our Torah portion, the Jews are trapped, with the Egyptian army behind them and the sea ahead. Moses tells the Jewish people, "Stand and see the salvation of God, because the way you see the Egyptians now, you will never again see them." One of the explanations of this 'never again' statement is that God is going to perform this incredible miracle once in history. The miracle of the sea (really miracles is a better word because many different incredible things happened simultaneously) was a one-time deal. God showed His awesome power and control during the plagues and at the sea. Just as the CEO, God doesn't show this stuff every day. Our responsibility is to stand and PAY ATTENTION to it. If we're distracted by multi sided cubes, or everyday life, or all the different ideas the world throws at us; well that is our problem. We have got to listen and see.



## summer info session

Sunday night, January 31st,  
7:00-7:45pm pacific

on zoom  
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ask burning questions

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In our days we might not see fantastic miracles like the splitting of the sea (or the splitting of the office swimming pool), but God does show himself in subtle ways. The world is distracting, but if we stop and pay attention, we will get an incredible tour of the universe God has made for us, and learn to appreciate life on a completely different level.

continued from page 1

# PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY  
SYNDICATED COMIC  
STRIP



Moses, that was incredible! You stretched out your staff and voila! The waters split!

No biggie. I was just doing my part...

## DID JEW KNOW?

The sea didn't just split. There were 12 separate tunnels, one for each of the tribes of Israel.

Our Social Closeness

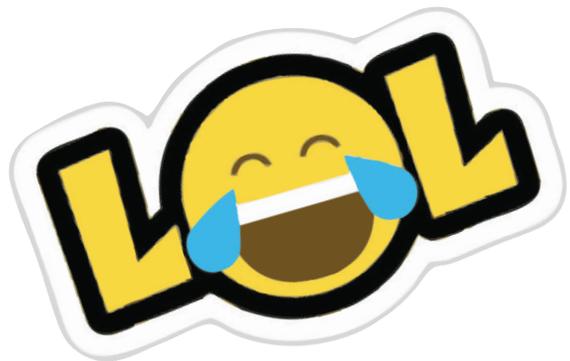


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I tried planting an orchard with no trees...

It was fruitless!

OUCH! GROAN!

Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so!  
Send it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to [stump@nageelawest.org](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

**Note:** We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way.

# Stump the Rabbi



## #157 Divine Chill

Dear Rabbi,

I just don't get it. I live in an apartment building, on the 6th floor. Thank God we have an elevator! Yet one day a week (can you guess which one?) we don't use the elevator and climb the stairs instead. That's a workout! It's even harder when we have a baby or a stroller with us, or when we have to carry my Dad (JK). If Shabbat is the day of rest, why do the rules seem to be set up to make us work harder?

Thanks,

Ella Vator

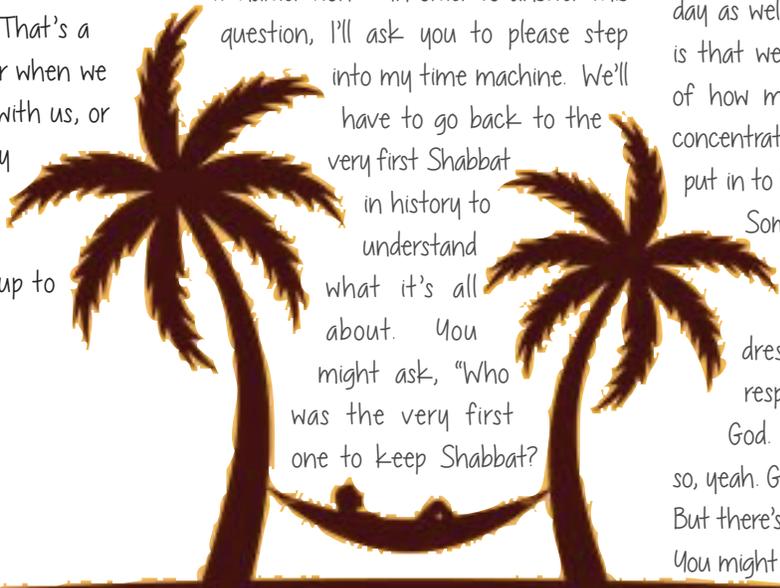
Dear Ella,

I love this question! Every Jew who has ever heard about Shabbat should have this question. We talk about Shabbat being the day of rest, in the meanwhile, the way we keep Shabbat sometimes makes it harder work. In order to answer this question, I'll ask you to please step into my time machine. We'll have to go back to the very first Shabbat in history to understand what it's all about. You might ask, "Who was the very first one to keep Shabbat?"

Was it Abraham? Adam? Merlin?" My answer is "God."

In the very beginning of the Torah, we are told that God finished his work of creating the universe, and rested on the seventh day. That is why we rest on the seventh day as well. One way to understand this is that we want to be like God. Think of how much time, effort, money and concentration people (especially teenagers) put in to being just like their role models.

Sometimes it's an athlete or an actress, a singer or politician... people really do try to speak, dress and act like people they respect. Well nobody is as cool as God. He actually invented coolness, so, yeah. God rested on Shabbat, so do we. But there's a problem with this explanation. You might be picturing this scene: After 6



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## Stump the Rabbi continued

days of hard intensive labor, God is sweating and His muscles are sore. He just wants to take a shower, throw on a Hawaiiin shirt, and jump into a hammock with a tall glass of pickle colada with an umbrella straw... NO, NO, NO. That's NOT how it goed (yes, I know goed isn't a word, but it just sounds better in this spot than 'went' so just let it goed this time). First of all, God cannot get tired. God is perfect. Second of all, why a hammock? Jacuzzi would have been the better option. Third of all, do you know what tools God used to 'build' the universe? His words. Just a few words. He spoke like 6 times and POOF everything existed. So when we say God RESTED on the seventh day, what do we actually mean? Aha! I see the look of confusion on your face. That either means you agree with me, or you have no idea what I'm talking about! Ummm, let's go on anyway.

If God didn't work hard, then what does it mean that He rested? It means He stopped creating. For every day since God initially created the universe, He had made something new. Shabbat was the first day He made nothing new. He stopped creating. In a way, He CREATED no creating. Therefore on Shabbat, we emulate God by not creating. So no snapping your fingers and conjuring tuna fish and cream cheese sandwiches out of the ether. You caught me... as humans, we don't create things from nothing. Yet the Torah tells us not to 'work' on Shabbat right next to the part about building the Temple, so the

Talmud infers that it's Temple building-type activity that counts as creative work. The Talmud then gives us 39 types of creative activity (work) that we avoid doing on Shabbat. I won't go through them all today. A few examples are sowing and sewing (sowing means planting things in the ground), lighting a fire and cooking, carrying stuff outdoors and doing laundry. You're right, taking the elevator is more relaxing than climbing the 73 steps to your apartment (I have my sources). But Shabbat is not just

about relaxation (though that's a part of it). It's about connecting to God by stopping to create in certain ways. Being like Him. It's a divine chill. Now please pass that pickle colada...

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

*the Rabbi*



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## COMING THIS WEEK

**SATURDAY-** Virtual Havdallah

**SUNDAY-** Camp Nageela West Info Session

**MONDAY-** Las Vegas Jewnior Latte N' Learn

**MONDAY-** Arizona Leadership Event

**TUESDAY-** Orange County Leadership Event Online

**WEDNESDAY-** Park City Jewnior NCSY board meeting

# A REFLECTION

Have you ever noticed that there are no biblical commandments directly commemorating the Jews' suffering in Egypt? There are a TON of mitzvos commemorating the exodus and the great miracles. But none for the actual slavery.

Well, there's marmor - the bitter herbs we eat at our Passover Seder. But that's a sub-mitzvah, meant ideally to be eaten together with the Pascal lamb and matzah (i.e. a Hillelwich or biblical shawarma wrap). Remembering tragedy achieves the most meaning when put in the context of our Jewish survival story and our spiritual journey. The memory Passover suffering is critical to our appreciation of our freedom and our acceptance of the Torah.

This week, people all across the globe observed Holocaust Remembrance Day. It's important to remember the troubles of the past so they are less likely to repeat themselves. And we learn from Passover that the maximum mileage we can get from remembering the painful episodes of the last is to grow from them, and to use them to strive higher.

May we all take the messages of our challenging history and use them to better ourselves in every way. Being kinder and more sensitive to others. Really listening to others' opinions, instead of just pretending to. Dedicating ourselves and our lives to the preserving of the continuity of the Jewish nation and our remarkable way of life.

Thank you to the more than 70 middle school students who attended this week's online 'Bad Apples' event. Gift cards will be arriving shortly for the winners!

Thanks also to the volunteers who packed 50 Mystery boxes this week in honor of upcoming Purim celebration!



Best wishes to our friends and family members celebrating this week...

Belle Teitelbaum  
Braden Martin  
Adam Adelson  
Ayala Ben-Shimon  
Maya Bega  
Madden Marks  
Wyatt Rozea  
Victorial'oren Sefia  
Israel Ivgi  
Rabbi Akiva Naiman



**CLAPPING IS  
JUST HITTING  
YOURSELF  
BECAUSE YOU  
LIKE SOMETHING**

## Nageela West Coast



breaks the mold of old school Jewish outreach by providing out-of-the-box social and educational programs for Jewish children across the West Coast. Through afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience. Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

[www.nageelawest.org](http://www.nageelawest.org)

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